



information

Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel at Pine Bluff Arsenal

In 1941, the War Department (now the Department of Defense) established the Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA) to manufacture mustard and lewisite chemical agents and to assemble and load incendiary, pyrotechnic and chemical munitions. The production of chemical agents and munitions ceased in 1969.

Since the 1970s, PBA has produced non-lethal chemical materiel, tested chemical defense equipment, manufactured munitions such as smoke, white phosphorus and other incendiary projectiles, and refurbished protective masks. In addition, PBA is one of eight sites in the continental United States safely storing and monitoring our nation's stockpile of unitary chemical weapons. It has carried out this mission for over 50 years.

PBA also safely stores, monitors and maintains former production facilities and other materiel classified as Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel or NSCM. NSCM is chemical materiel *separate* from the unitary chemical stockpile. It includes buried chemical warfare materiel, non-lethal binary chemical munition components, recovered chemical warfare materiel (RCWM), former production facilities and miscellaneous chemical warfare materiel. Recovered materiel can, and often does, date back to the World War I era.

PBA's inventory includes all classifications of NSCM except buried chemical weapons. Only 4 percent of the total amount of NSCM items classified as RCWM at PBA were received from off-post locations for safe storage and monitoring. The remaining RCWM were uncovered on the arsenal during environmental restoration or recovery activities.

The task of safely storing and monitoring NSCM at PBA is carried out by the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA). PBCA is also responsible for storing and monitoring the chemical weapons stockpile stored at PBA slated for destruction in the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

Due to the variety of chemical warfare materiel located at PBA, multiple disposal alternatives are being evaluated under the regulatory guidelines of the National Environmental Policy Act. The Army Product Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel will examine the potential environmental impacts of various disposal options. Disposal alternatives under consideration include the construction of new facilities, renovation of existing facilities and the use of mobile treatment systems. A variety of treatment technologies are also being evaluated as possible methods to neutralize the chemical agents contained in the NSCM stored at PBA.

For more information on the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project, call (800) 488 0648 or visit our Web site at <http://www.pmc.dapgea.army.mil>.

*For more information,
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